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I. RECRUITING AND RETAINING STAFF

A. Impact of Changing Authorization Levels

25X1 Authorized staffing levels in the intelligence agencies have fluctuated widely over the past 20 years in all but the military departments' intelligence components.

Congress reduced CIA, NSA and DIA levels in the 1970s, when the war in Southeast Asia ended. The agencies report that these cuts led to loss of intelligence capability in many areas. Cuts in DIA, for example, reduced that agency to single analysts, without backup, in many areas and eliminated the capability to generate products on some areas of the world, notably on Third World military and political developments.

The rapid and sizeable buildup in the IC agencies beginning in 1981 and continuing through 1987 has also had a great impact. Agencies did not initially achieve the staffing levels Congress intended, and many vacancies persisted until the recruitment systems could be revitalized. Also, experienced staff had to be diverted from operational missions to train the large numbers of new employees.

25X1 These staffing level fluctuations have created management problems in the intelligence agencies, problems which will continue for many years.

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Telecom re DIA Proposed Staff Reductions

STAT [] phone call to [] DIA 373-2685

The fiscal year 1989 Goldwater-Nichols DOD Reorganization Act contained a proposal for a 5 percent reduction in DIA staff. NAPA mentioned this in its second interim report to Congress (September 1988, page 9).

STAT [] said that DOD did take some cuts, but that Secretary Carlucci determined that DIA would not have to absorb any of them. Thus, it was the secretary who put the priority on DIA not having a lower staffing level, not the Congress.

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